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Amber Refraction

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Key words: traditional, contemporary, craft, technology

The purpose of this design was to fuse traditional artistry, such as hand weaving and oil painting, with contemporary digital printing technology. The overall silhouette and design of the garment were inspired by the organic curves and other architectural elements found in Korean traditional costume, Hanbok. The textile surface design of the woven jacket utilized an optical illusion of depth and volume created by having parallel gradation in two contrasting colors overlap in an interleaving pattern. The overall design in this ensemble is a visual bridge that intertwines traditional craft culture and contemporary design technology.

First, a flat pattern making method was used to create a single, continuous pattern piece for the jacket. Eighteen separate linear gradients of progressing intensity were created in Photoshop and then printed on 100% cotton chambray. Each 1/2" strip was hand-cut and woven together in a progressive order from two separate axes to be used as a fabric surface for the jacket. The skirt pattern was created by using draping technique. The print for skirt was based on an abstract oil painting completed by one of the designers. The photograph of the oil painting was then manipulated using Photoshop to create the current offset repeat design.

‘Amber Refraction’ was created using 100% digitally printed cotton chambray, 100% polyester lining fabric, and 100% polyester tulle to shape the skirt. The design was completed on May 12th, 2013. The garment can be worn by a model with the following measurements: chest 34", waist 25", and hip 36".

